

## Report of Strategy and Commissioning

**Report to: Director of Environment and Housing**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Subject: Extension of the Young Person's Floating Support contract with Renew**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

- 1.1 The Young Person's Floating Support contract is managed by Renew and provides citywide floating support to young people (aged 16-25) for up to 2 years to help them maintain an existing tenancy and support them into long term, stable, independent living.
- 1.2 This contract forms part of the programme of Housing Related Support services commissioned by Strategy and Commissioning, Public Health on behalf of Environment and Housing.
- 1.3 The contract was put in place after a competitive tender and is for three years with up to two one year extensions available. The initial three year period is due to expire on 6 November 2014. Approval is being sought for the first one year extension at a cost of £469,728 per annum.
- 1.4 There is a high demand for the service, which has consistently performed well over the contract period to date and to good quality standards.
- 1.5 The service is strategically important as it forms a key part of the overall young person's model with regard to housing related support. This model covers emergency accommodation, trainer flat and move on support, a resource centre, specialist support for young people leaving care and this service which supports young people in tenancies.

## **Recommendations**

- 1.6 The Director of Environment and Housing is recommended to approve the one year extension to the existing contract with Renew for the Young Person's Floating Support Service with effect from 7 November 2014 up to a value of £469,728 per annum.

## **2 Purpose of this report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Young Person's Floating Support Service provided by Renew is continued through a one year extension to the existing contract.

## **3 Background information**

- 3.1 This contract, for three years with an option for up to two one year extensions, has been in place with Renew for the Young Person's Floating Support Service since 7 November 2011.
- 3.2 This contract was originally put in place following a competitive tender using a call off from the Young Person's Framework Agreement.
- 3.3 The service provides city wide floating support for up to 200 vulnerable young people at any one time to help them maintain an existing tenancy and support them into long term, stable independent living. Young people are referred into the service through a variety of key partners, including Leeds Housing Options, Children's Services and Flagship and support is provided for up to two years where required.
- 3.4 There is a high demand for the service, which has been consistently running at full capacity and performance has been good throughout the contract period to date. Throughput targets are met and around 30-40 young people complete their support each quarter having successfully maintained independent living. For example during 2013/2014 the service supported 370 young people, 157 achieved independent living with the remainder continuing to be supported.
- 3.5 The quality of the service provided is good with the needs and wellbeing of young people taken into account across all aspects of service delivery and support planning. The Strategy and Commissioning contract manager together with the Head of Commissioning have visited the service and assessed the level of support being provided. It was clear that the service supports a large number of young people who are very vulnerable with a complex series of needs that require intensive support to enable them to live stable and independent lives.

## **4 Main issues**

- 4.1 The service is a key part of the young person's housing support model that has taken shape over the last couple of years as a result of the Young Person's Sector Review completed July 2012. The model now comprises emergency accommodation provided by Seacole, trainer flat and move on floating support provided by the Flagship consortium and specialist support for young people leaving care provided by GIPSIL. In addition Renew provide drop in and resource

centre support at Archway and this service supports young people in existing tenancies.

- 4.2 The service is well connected with appropriate agencies both with regards to referrals, wider support and operational issues, attending the Flagship steering group meeting and the weekly young person's operational group meeting organised by Children's Services and Leeds Housing Options.
- 4.3 The service performance is good with positive outcomes being achieved for young people in line with the service specification. Intensive support is provided where required ensuring that not only is stable independent living achieved but that young people have the skills and options available to achieve full independence through support around health, parenting, education and training, employment, benefits and maximising income.
- 4.4 During the next 12-24 months evaluation of the young person's model will take place to see if this continues to be the most effective model at meeting the needs of young people in the city with regards to housing support and whether the current mix of provision is still correct. In addition it will be important to take into consideration the potential impact of Children's Services proposed development of a young person's hub and the wider Strategy and Commissioning review of all floating support contracts.

## **5 Corporate Considerations**

### **5.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.1.1 Extensive consultation with young people, internal and external stakeholders and providers was carried as part of the Young Person's sector review. This service was disaggregated from other services and remodelled reflecting the findings of the Young Person's sector review. Consultation has continued as housing related support services for young people have been refined, remodelled and tendered over the last two years
- 5.1.2 Renew engage with service users on an on-going basis, through focus groups, service user groups and through satisfaction surveys and the voice and experience of young people is consistently sought through the day to day work of the service.

### **5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 5.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening has been completed and included as background information to this report. The screening indicates that a full assessment is not required because extending the contract will not involve any changes which would impact negatively on service users, staff or stakeholders.

### **5.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 5.3.1 The Housing Related Support programme directly contributes to the delivery of the Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030's aim to make Leeds the Best City for health and wellbeing where "people are supported by high quality services to live full,

active and independent lives”, and the Best Council Plan 2013/17 outcome of “improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty”.

- 5.3.2 The Young Person’s Floating Support Service specifically addresses the challenge within the Children & Young People Plan 2011-15 to focus on the needs of young people with the most significant and complex barriers to progression. The primary focus of the service is housing needs, but also provides support around the other issues highlighted in the Plan, such as finance and mental health.
- 5.3.3 The service is also contributing to the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-15 by providing support, advice and guidance to young people in order to help them live safely in their own homes, minimise debt, achieve their potential through education and lifelong learning, and move into employment.
- 5.3.4 The Leeds Homelessness Strategy 2012-15 gives as one of its priorities the need to “minimise the use of temporary accommodation and deliver an effective and modern programme of housing support”. It goes on to describe a necessary action to support this being ‘explore options for better meeting the housing needs of young people.....’ The Young Person’s Floating Support Service helps to minimise the need for temporary accommodation by supporting young people to maintain tenancies, and through effective and intensive support, helps them into long term, stable independent living.

## **5.4 Resources and Value for Money**

- 5.4.1 As this is an extension to an existing contract, there is financial provision within the Environment and Housing commissioning budget for housing related support services managed by Strategy and Commissioning, Office of the Director of Public Health.
- 5.4.2 The service offers value for money, costing a comparable amount to other young people services that are currently commissioned.

## **5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 5.5.1 The recommendation within this report is in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules 21.1 and there is provision for this 12-month extension within the original contract.
- 5.5.2 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.
- 5.5.3 The total contract value is £469,728 pa. This is therefore a Key Decision as the value of the decision is over £250,000 and as such will subject to a call in period. A notice was published on the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions on 14 August 2014

## **5.6 Risk Management**

- 5.6.1 This 12 month extension period is required to enable continuation of the services provided by Renew through the Young Person’s Floating Support Service. It

provides a key part of the city-wide housing related support services for young people. Decommissioning the service would leave vulnerable young people without the support which they require to live independently.

- 5.6.2 There is a very small risk of challenge from other providers if the service is not exposed to competition at this time. However, the original contract was awarded after a competitive tender exercise and provision for this 12 month extension was within the original approval and is being requested to allow continuity of service delivery.
- 5.6.3 The contract will continue to be performance managed by officers in Strategy & Commissioning. This includes regular reviewing of performance information and quarterly contract management meetings with the provider, at which any delivery issues are discussed. To date, however, the service has consistently delivered to the performance criteria outlined in the specification. The service is delivered by a high quality, experienced staff team who are committed to providing the best service possible for a vulnerable client group.

## **6 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The Young Person's Floating Support Service, provided by Renew, is a good quality and well performing service for young people which supports them to maintain an existing tenancy and supports them into long term, stable independent living.
- 6.2 The current contract period expires on 6 November 2014 but there is provision for two further one year extension periods and this report seeks approval to extend the contract from 7 November 2014 to 6 November 2015.

## **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Director of Environment and Housing is recommended to approve a one year extension to the existing contract with Renew for the Young Person's Floating Support Service with effect from 7 November 2014 up to a value of £469,728 per annum.

## **8 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 8.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening document

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.